

ground. The fishermen of the neighborhood carried home with them baskets filled with these birds to eat."

*Cistothorus palustris griseus*. WORTHINGTON'S MARSH WREN.—A Wren taken in the salt marshes at old Topsail Inlet, near Beaufort, on August 2, was identified by Prof. Robert Ridgway as being *C. p. griseus*. The birds seemed not uncommon in certain of the marshes and several unoccupied nests were examined. In the marsh on Gull Island, in Pamlico Sound, about twenty miles north of Cape Hatteras, Marsh Wrens were found in numbers on May 20. Twelve nests were examined, but no eggs or young were found. A specimen taken at this place was pronounced by Mr. C. S. Brimley of Raleigh, N. C., to be *griseus*. Wrens heard singing in the marshes about Southport on June 9, I took to be of this variety, but I did not secure any specimens and hence cannot be positive as to this identification.

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## SOME WINTER BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY C. H. MORRELL.

I WAS in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, from the first of December, 1897, until the fourth of April, 1898, and though collecting was not the object of my visit, careful observations were made and notes taken of the birds seen during that time. The variety of species to be found there at that period is not extensive. December, the first week in January, the last week in February and the month of March was spent on the shore of Chignecto Bay, principally at Shulee, though some time was spent at Joggins, River Hebert and Amherst. During the greater part of January and February I was at Parrsboro on the Basin of Minas. There was little snow in December, the ground being bare most of the time, and no very cold weather. The principal snowfall was in January and February, and the coldest weather was during those months. Several severe storms occurred. March was exceptionally fair and pleasant. The sun shown warm from almost cloudless skies and under its influence the snow melted rapidly, the migrants began to arrive, and the winter birds were soon in full song.

The growth from Joggins to Shulee is mainly spruce, though some hard wood grows on the higher ridges. The shore is lined with rugged cliffs which are wooded to the edge in most places. Spruce also prevails about Parrsboro though there the woods have been cut away and there is more open country. Amherst is in the midst of rich farming land and is surrounded by broad fields and marshes.

In addition to those mentioned, several species of Gulls and Ducks were seen but as no specimens were taken they could not be positively identified. A list of the species seen is appended.

1. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—One seen in the bay near Joggins, Dec. 7.
2. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. AMERICAN HERRING GULL.—Common on both shores.
3. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—Common along shore all winter.
4. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD SQUAW.—Frequently seen about the shores at Parrsboro.
5. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—A flock of 12 seen at Joggins Dec. 7. The returning migrants arrived early in March.
6. *Canachites canadensis*. CANADA GROUSE.—The 'Spruce Partridge' was called a common bird by residents. I did not see it.
7. *Bonasa umbellus togata*.—CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE.—An abundant resident.
8. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—Once seen and frequently heard.
9. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—One seen at River Hebert, Dec. 8, and one at Shulee, Jan. 2. Seemingly not common.
10. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—A common resident.
11. *Picoides americanus*. AM. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—Through the kindness of Messrs. Edward and Robert Christie I visited their logging camp on March 16. The camp is four miles in the spruce growth, about equal distance from River Hebert and Two Rivers. It was a favorite locality for many birds. While there I heard Woodpeckers drumming and soon located three of this species. After drumming for some time they came down to the dried tops of spruces of previous cuttings which were everywhere, and worked about over them. They were very fearless and I stood within two yards of each in turn and watched them for some time. Two were males with golden crown; the third was evidently a female. These three were the only ones seen.
12. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—Frequently seen toward spring.
13. *Perisoreus canadensis*. CANADA JAY.—A common resident. Very fearless, coming about the buildings for scraps. I saw birds with grass in their bills late in March. They evidently nest in April.

14. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.—Not common. A pair seen at Shulee and another pair at Partridge Island, near Parrsboro.

15. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Common all winter.

16. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Migrants arrived at Shulee, March 22.

17. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK.—Abundant during December and first two weeks of January, after which none were seen, with the exception of one pair seen at Shulee April 3. Nearly all were in the dull plumage of female and young male. I did not see a full plumaged adult male.

18. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—A pair seen at Shulee January 2.

19. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.—I did not see this species until March when it became common. At that time the males were in full song, and the birds were paired, male and female always being seen together. If in flocks an equal number of each sex was present. The males of this and the following species sing well. Both sang much on fluttering, tremulous wings high above the tops of the spruces. I judged both species would nest in April. I was informed by Messrs. Christie that Crossbills were common about their camp all winter.

20. *Loxia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—Seen at the same time and under same conditions as the preceding, but was more abundant. The species were often associated.

21. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.—Small flocks were occasionally seen at Shulee and River Hebert in December. None were seen at Parrsboro. When I returned to River Hebert in March I found them by far the most abundant bird. There were thousands scattered throughout the spruces all along the shore, not in large flocks, but quite evenly distributed over many square miles of woodland. They were in full song and from sunrise until sunset their lisping notes were constantly heard. On the 16th of March while at Christie's camp I saw a bird gathering material and by watching her soon located the nest. The female alone carried material, the male accompanying her to and from the nest, singing constantly. A very short stop was made at the nest. Evidently some material was accumulated before it was arranged. A day or two after finding the nest I went to Shulee, so had no opportunity to again visit the nest until the 29th, when I left Shulee early in the morning, going to Two Rivers and thence through the woods to the camp. At this date the ground was mostly covered with snow in the woods, though it was rapidly melting. I found the nest completed. The bird refused to leave the nest until I was nearly within reach; she remained near, several times returning to the eggs for a moment. The nest was placed well out toward the end of a limb of a spruce tree, 27 feet above the ground. It was saddled on the limb and radiating twigs but not attached to them. Considering the size of the bird, it is quite large, rather flat

and bears no resemblance to nests of *Spinus tristis*, measuring as follows: height, 1.63 inches; depth, .75; outside top diameter, 4 inches; inside top diameter 2 inches. It is constructed mainly of dark pendulous tree-moss, with some fulvous bark from weed-stalks, plant-down, usnea, and other mosses. About the bottom of the nest is woven a few spruce twigs. The lining is entirely the pendulous moss. It contained four eggs but slightly incubated. These have a pale blue ground color, slightly darker than eggs of *Spinus tristis*, somewhat sparingly marked about the larger end with pale purplish and a few dots of brownish black. The eggs measure respectively, .66 × .50, .66 × .46, .63 × .49, .63 × .48, inches.

22. *Passerina nivalis*. SNOWFLAKE.—First seen at Parrsboro, January 19. Not very common, but three to twelve birds found in a flock.

23. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW.—Common everywhere, even in the lumbering towns some distance from railroads.

24. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW.—Two seen at Parrsboro in company of three Slate-colored Juncos, on January 26.

25. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Seen several times during the winter at Parrsboro. Migrants arrived at Shulee on March 18 and in a few days the birds were abundant. They are locally called 'Bluebirds.'

26. *Melospiza fasciata*. SONG SPARROW.—One seen at Partridge Island pier, near Parrsboro, on Feb. 12, and in the same place on several subsequent days. Migrants reached Shulee March 22, becoming common at once.

27. *Passerella iliaca*. FOX SPARROW.—A flock of migrants was seen March 29. They were in song.

28. *Ampelis cedrorun*. CEDAR WAXWING.—A flock of 10 seen in the city of Amherst March 1.

29. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREADED NUTHATCH.—Common all winter.

30. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE.—A common resident.

31. *Parus hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.—Abundant. Often seen accompanying the preceding. They are readily distinguished from *P. atricapillus* by their note alone.

32. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Abundant. I was never in the woods any length of time without meeting a flock. In March I frequently heard the summer nesting song.

33. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN.—A pair seen at Shulee in a dogwood tree feeding on the berries on Dec. 24, and one was seen in the same place next morning. I was informed that a pair had wintered there several times. Migrants arrived March 28.